

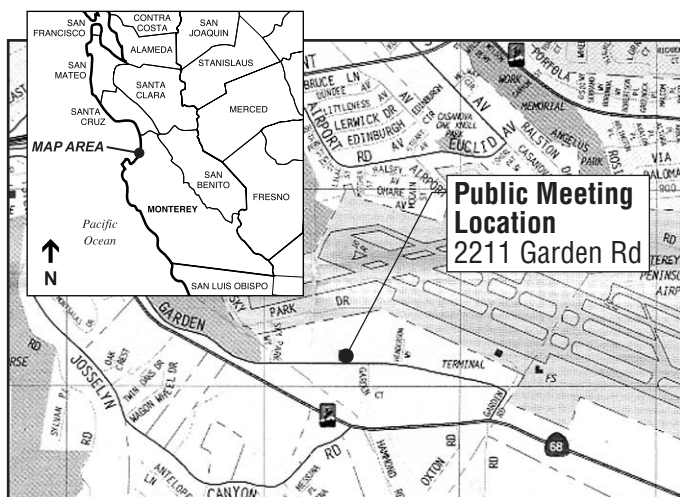


fort ord dunes state park general plan

PARTNERS IN PLANNING

The first public planning workshop and public and agency comment period for the Fort Ord Dunes State Park resulted in the submittal of numerous comment letters and surveys, a summary of which may be found at the State Parks website. We're now in the process of incorporating your ideas, along with resource agency input, state policies, and statewide recreation demand, into a plan purpose and vision, plan goals, and a description of the range of resource and recreation use possibilities for the park unit. These plan components will define the long-term vision for the park, identify desired improvements and enhancements, and provide guidelines for protecting natural and cultural resources.

Our second planning workshop is on Thursday, October 9, 2003. We will discuss the planning process conducted thus far, including the draft, vision, goals, and visitor experience and resource protection possibilities, and ask you about your own experiences, ideas and desires for the parks future. We hope you will take some time to get involved in planning the future of this new state park.



HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?

Stay Informed: Updates of this newsletter will be published to keep you informed about progress on the General Plan. You may also visit the State Parks Website at www.parks.ca.gov/ and click on the "Planning," "General Plans," "General Plans-In Progress" link to get updated plan information.

Submit Comments: Tell us what you think about the planning process conducted thus far by submitting comments to the address listed within this newsletter. If you are unable to attend the October public workshop, additional planning information and workshop materials (including comment sheets) will be posted at the Planning website following the meeting or available through the Monterey District Office.

Attend the Second Public Planning Workshops: We will host the second public workshop on October 9 at the California Department of Parks and Recreation Monterey District Office. The main purpose of the workshop will be to present possibilities for the park and provide the public an opportunity to comment on these possibilities and provide news ideas.

You are invited to attend the second workshop "Evaluating Possibilities" on:

Thursday, October 9, 2003

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

**California Department of Parks and Recreation
Monterey District Office**

**2211 Garden Road
Monterey, CA 93940**

FORT ORD DUNES

Fort Ord Dunes consists of approximately 886 acres of parkland located in Monterey County, including 4 miles of ocean beach. The property is being conveyed to the California Department of Parks and Recreation upon completion of superfund investigations and clean-up activities, which are nearly complete, and the resolution of issues associated with Stilwell Hall.

The Fort Ord Dunes property is dominated by a continuous coastal sand dune formation that rises steeply to block ocean views from most of State Route 1. The property includes the remnants of military era structures that are not in use, including small arms firing ranges, former ammunition storage consisting of bunkers, a railroad loading dock, and Stilwell Hall. Fort Ord Dunes currently includes sensitive wildlife and plant species. Opportunities exist to enhance habitat, restore populations, and protect these and other less sensitive species; while providing recreational opportunities for the public.



The beach at Fort Ord Dunes.

DRAFT PURPOSE AND VISION

The following Draft Declaration of Purpose and Unit Vision will set the purpose for park management and the image(s) of what it could ultimately be like in the future. The Declaration of Purpose is the “mission statement” for each unit of the State Parks system and describes the purpose of the park. It is the broadest statement of management goals designed to fulfill the vision for the park and provides direction for the development of the General Plan.

The purpose of Fort Ord Dunes State Park is to preserve and make available for public use, inspiration, aesthetic enjoyment, and education, an area along the Monterey Bay shoreline of unique natural beauty and scientific significance

including sandy beaches, coastal dunes, and remnants of the site's military history. All scenic, natural, cultural, and recreational resources shall be managed as a whole, preserving and restoring the natural and cultural character of the park.

The purpose will be accomplished through the management and restoration of park resources in order to ensure the perpetuation of its environmental complexes, scenic values, and history; to interpret them effectively; and to provide, consistent with resource protection, recreation facilities, educational programs, and support services as are necessary for the public's enjoyment of the unit.

The park vision provides guiding images of what the park should be like in the future, following implementation of the general plan:

The park will retain its relatively undeveloped character and spectacular natural and scenic beauty. The undeveloped beach environment will be preserved, the coastal dune vegetation communities will continue to be restored, and sensitive plants, animals, and habitats will be protected and preserved, resulting in a natural area unencumbered by visual intrusions and which will allow visitors to find relaxation, rejuvenation, recreation, and inspiration in the park's natural environment.

The military history of the site will be remembered. Interpretation and education programs will also emphasize dune ecology and the adjacent marine sanctuary. Facilities will be developed to facilitate diverse appropriate visitor experiences in harmony with the environment, and promote preservation, appreciation, and stewardship of cultural and natural resources. The park will offer visitors of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities the opportunity to experience and discover its distinctive plant and animal life, explore the areas military history, and enjoy the coastal environment during all seasons and times of day.

Access to the beach and other points of interest will be provided, and will emphasize the many scenic vista points from which all of Monterey Bay can be viewed. Interpretive information will be established at significant points of interest, providing visitors with a heightened awareness of the significance of the dune ecosystem. Regional trail connections and other unique regional recreation opportunities will be enhanced and established. Opportunities for partnerships, interpretation, and research will be encouraged, including cooperation with regional educational institutions and Monterey Bay area jurisdictions.

DRAFT MANAGEMENT ZONES

To determine locations of future facilities and what levels of resource protection should occur, management zones will be designated to help describe the purpose of various areas within the park, as well as depict their intended use and condition. These draft zones are based on opportunities, constraints, and issues identified through analyses of existing conditions, policies, statewide recreation demand, and agency and public input.

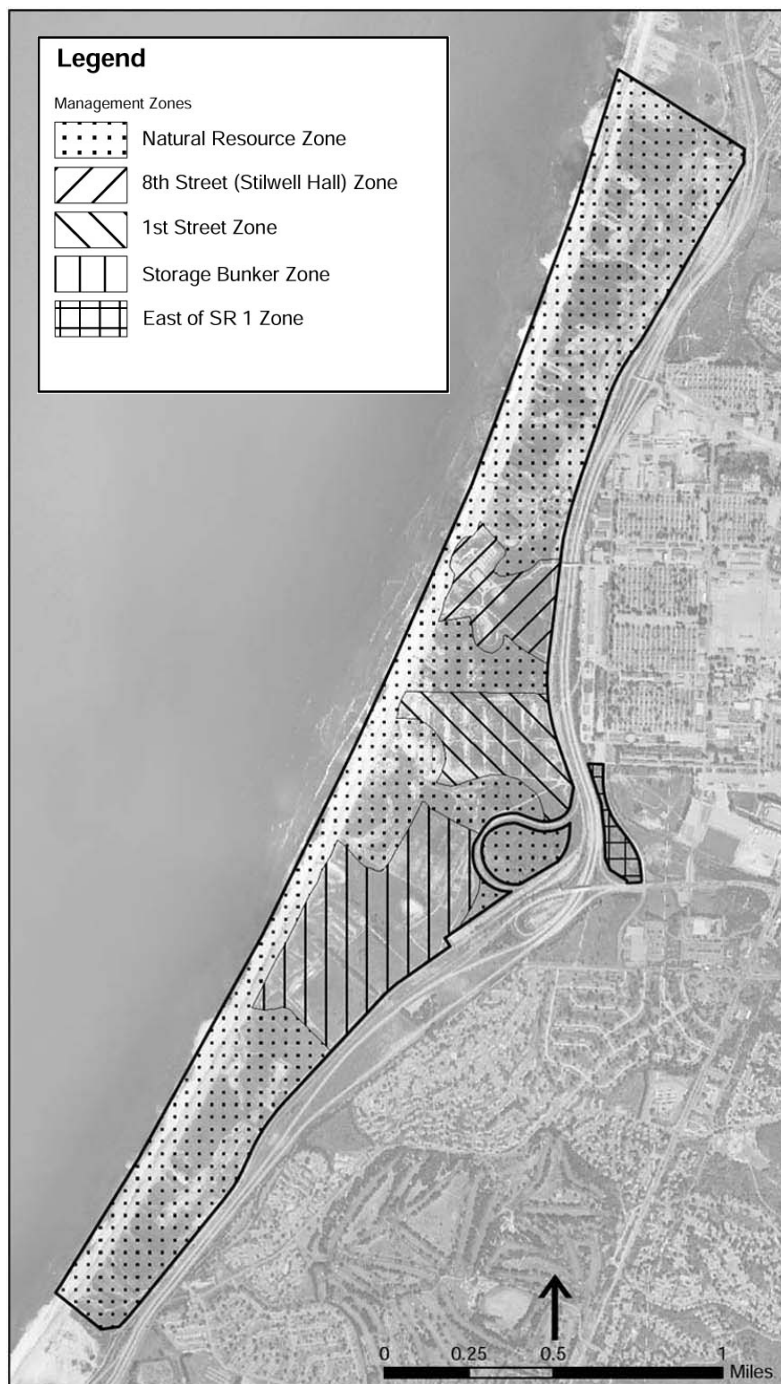
Natural Resource Zone. Uses could include habitat preservation/restoration, walking/trail use, nature study and observation, sightseeing, beach access, emergency/operational access, and interpretation of park resources.

8th Street Zone. Uses could include walking/trail use, nature study and observation, sightseeing, beach access, picnicking, camping, interpretation, visitor arrival and orientation, emergency/operational access, overnight lodging, and habitat preservation/restoration.

1st Street Zone. Uses could include walking/trail use, nature study and observation, sightseeing, beach access, military era interpretation, visitor arrival and orientation, emergency/operational access, regional transportation connection, and habitat preservation/restoration.

Storage Bunker Zone. Uses could include hike/bike, environmental, or group/family and/or RV camping, walking/trail use, nature study, sightseeing, beach access, military era interpretation, emergency/operational access, and collections storage, habitat preservation/restoration, and operations and storage.

East of State Route 1 Zone. This zone may serve as a highway buffer with no park uses or as an administrative support, park entrance, concessionaire services, information/orientation, and park operations area.



If you are not currently on our mailing list and would like to receive planning updates and notice about future workshops, or wish to send written comments, please contact us at:

California Department of Parks and Recreation
Monterey District Office - Attn: Kenneth Gray
2211 Garden Road
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 649-2836

Visit our website: www.parks.ca.gov

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DRAFT GENERAL PLAN GOALS

Unitwide and area goals and guidelines will be prescribed in the General Plan, stating the management intentions and providing general guidance supportive of the park's resources. Collectively, the Purpose and Vision, Management Zones, and Goals and Guidelines will provide the vision and direction for the future management, development, and use of the park. The Draft Goals include:

- Preserve, maintain, restore, and interpret special-status plant and animal species and communities.
- Continue native dune restoration and non-native plant control to reach ultimate goal of maintaining 700 acres of existing and restored habitat.
- Establish, maintain, and preserve buffers around existing significant park resources.
- Identify policies and potential management actions to minimize the negative impacts of coastal erosion and erosion prone dunes.
- Plan and manage visitor activities to minimize resource impacts, while establishing and maintaining appropriate types and levels of visitor use.
- Protect park visitors and staff from potential hazardous conditions and hazardous materials.
- Interpret the dunes military and cultural history.
- Establish a circulation system that creates a sense of place, conveys the park image, and minimizes traffic impacts.
- Provide a variety of recreational opportunities that will allow California's diverse population to visit, enjoy, and better understand the significance of the dunes, while maintaining the highest levels of resource management and protection.
- Provide educational and recreational opportunities to increase visitor knowledge and appreciation of the significant resources at the park and expand their understanding of ecological relationships. Heighten visitor awareness of and sensitivity to human impacts on these resources.
- Identify, preserve, and perpetuate the distinctive landscape qualities of the dunes.
- Continue ongoing coordination and communication between the park and local communities.
- Continue coordination with local land use agencies regarding transfer and/or acquisition of additional nearby property, or other cooperative land management efforts.

GENERAL PLAN PROCESS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Spring 2003

Information Gathering
Fieldwork
Summarize Existing
Conditions

Summer 2003

Public Workshop #1
Discuss Opportunities &
Constraints
Develop Plan Possibilities

Fall 2003

Public Workshop #2
Evaluate Plan Possibilities

Winter 2003

Prepare Draft Plans

Spring 2004

Public Review of Draft
Plan/EIR
Distribute Final Plan/EIR
Agency Approvals



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